

# HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

## MINUTES

### HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

22 April 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Tim Sullivan, Abigail Crouse, Bill Rosebrock, Dave Bruckman, Harry Cosimano, Jim Wright, Karen Rose and Brett Bragin

#### **I. Opening:**

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1935 hours.

**II. Minutes:** The minutes of the March 11, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved, all in favor.

**III. Correspondence:** The following correspondence was received;

- a) Flyer regarding the ANJEC Best Foot Forward Seminar (techniques for walkable, bikeable communities)
- b) Flyer from the Upper Delaware Watershed Workshop on internet mapping.
- c) Letter from the NJ Department of Agriculture regarding a program to recycle empty plastic pesticide containers and nursery pots.
- d) Flyer from the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission regarding mosquito control.

#### **IV. New Business:**

A) The Commission noted that today was Earth Day, an appropriate day for our Environmental Commission meeting.

B) All members received a copy of the response letter that was received from the NJDEP regarding the Unified Environmental Services Group facility (i.e., the Hydropress facility). The NJDEP letter did not answer any of the questions that we asked. Instead, they informed the Commission that although the Hydropress NJPDES permit expired on April 30, 1997, the permit remains in effect because the permittee submitted a timely application for renewal. The renewal application is pending review by the NJDEP Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals. The Commission will send another letter to the NJDEP asking why it has taken so long to review a permit application that was submitted on or about April 30, 1997, etc.

C) It was noted that Harry Cosimano has been made a full Commission member, and that Jim Wright and Karen Rose are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate, respectively.

D) A motion was made by Tim Sullivan, seconded by Harry Cosimano, to approve the remaining meeting dates for the Environmental Commission as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. All were in favor.

E) A motion was made by Brett Bragin, seconded by Tim Sullivan, to designate the Express-Times and Star-Gazette (formerly known as the Phillipsburg Free Press) as the newspapers where Environmental Commission public notices would be published. All in favor.

F) Information on a potential “wind farm” on Scott’s Mountain was discussed. Clipper Wind Power of California has apparently been approaching farmers in White and Harmony Townships about potential locations on which to site windmills. However, local officials have not heard anything about this.

G) In the fiscal year 2004 budget, the NJDEP has proposed to cut the entire Environmental Services Program’s grant to environmental commissions (\$165,000). Our commission sent a letter to Governor McGreevy requesting that this program not be eliminated.

H) Information regarding the comment period for the new source review provisions of the Clean Air Act were distributed. Bill Rosebrock provided information on the air quality monitoring being done by Roche and PP&L, and on the citizen advisory committees that have been formed. Karen Rose expressed an interest in possibly attending these meetings.

I) Support from Greenwich Township was requested in their opposition to a new truck weigh station to be constructed along both sides of Interstate Route 78. It was noted that the construction work may have already begun. The Commission unanimously decided that if Greenwich still needs support in opposition to this project, we will support them.

## **V. Old Business**

A) Centex Homes (i.e., Dowel Associates Proposed “River Walk” (Block 37 Lot 4) - The Environmental Impact Statement and Inventory for this proposed project was reviewed. The Commission has concerns regarding the following aspects of the EIS;

- 1) package sewage treatment plant
- 2) source of public water
- 3) traffic impacts
- 4) site geology (limestone)
- 5) pump station (not shown on plans)
- 6) on site wetlands present? do we have a copy of the LOI?
- 7) stormwater management/impervious cover/groundwater recharge
- 8) Garrison Road heritage site/threatened & endangered species
- 9) the bird study that was done on-site
- 10) lime kiln on site
- 11) contamination from Witco/Hydropress migrating to the site
- 12) impact to schools not mentioned in report
- 13) light pollution from street lighting
- 14) natural gas supply to the development
- 15) effect of Hydropress and other sources of pollution were not addressed
- 16) concerns regarding potential for arsenic contamination at the site due previous orchard
- 17) public disclosure of surrounding sources of pollution
- 18) discharge to unnamed tributary to Delaware River

All Commission members were asked to put their comments regarding these issues (and any other areas of the EIS) in writing and to send them to Karen or bring them to the next meeting.

It was noted that we will get a copy of the traffic study for this proposed project at the May meeting.

There being no further business, the April meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2145 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary